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SPANISH *gualardon*.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—An interesting and rather sensible instance of etymologizing along popular lines is afforded by a passage in the *Siete Partidas* of Alfonso el Sabio. It occurs in Partida II, Título xxviii, Ley X: “quando los homes facen algunos fechos en las guerras por que merescen haber gualardones, *que quiere tanto decir como don equal de su merescimiento*, et el fecho viene en duba . . . . debe estonce el cabdiello haber su consejo et alvedriar sobre aquello,” etc. (ed. of the Real Academia de la Historia, Madrid, 1807). The source of *gualardon* is a Germanic word, which, as Diez shows, *Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, s. v. *guiderdone*, is represented by various Romance forms. The deformation of the latter part of the Germanic word Diez found natural enough, that of the first part of the word puzzled him a little. “*Widerdonum* (*i. e.* the Middle Latin form of the Germanic word) ist,” says Diez, “eine leichte entstellung des ahd. *widarlôn* . . . . wozu erinnerung an lat. *donum* verführen konnte. Das sp. *galardon* (*i. e.*, the modern form of *gualardon*) liesze sich selbst aus einer in dieser sprache ziemlich üblichen umstellung der buchstaben (für *gadarlon*) deuten, wäre es nicht rathsam, sämmtliche sprachen an demselben vorgange theil nehmen zu lassen, und *l* auf *d* zurückzuleiten.”

We should not too readily assume a phonetic change of *d* to *l* in Spanish. Perhaps some word forms cannot be explained except as the result of the pure phonetic process; it is probable, however, that analogy is responsible for the change in most cases, *Aequalum*, *igual* and a tendency toward popular etymologizing seem to supply the necessary factors in the present instance.

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## CONCERNING RADIUM.

To the Editors of *Mod. Lang. Notes*.

SIRS:—Now that interest in the alleged discovery of a new substance has somewhat lessened we may be permitted to remind our colleagues in

science of Benoit's well-known description in his *Roman de Troie*. The fourth image in the Chamber of Alabaster holds in its hand an incense burner filled with “gomes esperitax.” Besides,

Une pierre ot enz alumee  
Dont il n'ist flambe ne fumee;  
Sanz descroistre art et nuit et jor;  
Granz est li feus de sa cholor. vv. 14825–14828.

F. M. WARREN.

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## BRIEF MENTION.

The *Grammaire sommaire de l'ancien français*, by J. Bonnard and Am. Salmon,<sup>1</sup> is issued as a complement to the abridgment by the same authors of Godefroy's dictionary, and is a simple, well-arranged summary of Old-French grammar. Grammatical facts and processes, however, lend themselves to simplified treatments only at a sacrifice of essentials, and moreover, with the large number of hand-books on the subject already issued, only a work of rare merit has real justification. It is true that few of the grammars now on the market include a treatment of syntax, but that given by Bonnard and Salmon is too meager and eclectic to render large service. Advanced students will find in the book little they can use, and beginners would be hampered by the absence of index and table of contents.

The well-merited success of Kr. Nyrop's *Grammaire historique de la langue française*, of which two volumes have so far appeared, is indicated by the publication of a second edition of the first volume.<sup>2</sup> Many additions and corrections have been made, the reviews of the first edition have been largely utilized; a number of sections have been enlarged and some added, without however modifying the general correspondence of paragraphs in the old and the new edition. The increase in the number of pages is from 488 to 551. In its new form, the work will retain and increase the esteem in which it is already held.

<sup>1</sup> Paris and Leipzig. Welter, 1904. gr. 8°. 70 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Copenhagen, Gyldendalske Boghaudel, 1904.